

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 22 July 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Paterson, John	i	Railway Dugouts	link
43 rd Battalion	i	West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	i
Sergeant #420998	i	Plot 8 Row B Grave 26	i
June 4, 1916	link	Reburial October 20, 1924	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record		Graves Registration Report	6
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	7
CEF Canada Register		Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	2	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map	3	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map	4	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	5	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	8

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 8 Row B Grave 26 lists an unknown Canadian Sergeant of the 43rd Cameron Highlanders of Canada (43rd Infantry Battalion, CEF). A review of the four (4) candidate Sergeants of the 43rd Battalion clearly showed that the only possible soldier in this grave is Sergeant John Paterson #420998, who was killed in action on June 4, 1916 near Zillebeke, Belgium.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 8 Row B Grave 26 are those of Sergeant John Paterson #420998 of the 43rd Canadian Infantry Battalion.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death reports that the remains were recovered at Sheet 28 I24 a.6.4 which is an exact match for the location of the burial of Sergeant Paterson in a garden behind the cottage on the west side of the road, 100 yards north of the church. The site is 1.5 miles east-south-east of Zillebeke (Attachment 1).
2. The War Diary extract shows that the 43rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division was active in this area on June 4, 1916 when Sergeant Paterson was killed in action (Attachment 2).
3. The location of the remains, as depicted in the area map (Attachment 3) and trench map (Attachment 4) agree with the location where the remains were recovered. The Nicholson Overlay of Map 4a "The Battle of Mount Sorrel" on the modern day landscape shows the church is still at that area and the 9th Infantry Brigade moving through the area.
4. There are four (4) Sergeants of the 43rd Canadian Infantry Battalion named on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Sergeants Downie, Geoffrey and Wood were all killed at Passchendaele on October 26, 1917. Sergeant John Paterson #420998 was killed at Zillebeke on June 4, 1916 (Attachment 5).
5. The location and details of the remains found in Plot 8 Row B Grave 26 are detailed on the Graves Registration Report Form (Attachment 6) and the Concentration of Graves – Burial Return (Attachment 7). These are in agreement with the findings as presented in this report as to the location of Sergeant Paterson at the time he was killed and buried in the Zillebeke sector.

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #8).

It is our belief that the findings we have presented are clear and conclusive that the remains in the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) Plot 8 Row B Grave 26 are those of Sergeant John Paterson of the 43rd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

We would ask that the headstone and corresponding records be changed to properly record these findings.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
420996,	Sergeant,	PATERSON,	John,
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
42nd Battalion.	4-6-16.	649-P-1661.	Presbyterian.
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in action."			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
TRENCHES EAST OF ZILLEBEKE.			
NOTE—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave _____ Plot _____ Row _____	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

In garden behind cottage West side of road, 100 yards North of church, Zillebeke,
1½ miles East South East of Ypres, Belgium. (Grave Registered.)

21. REMARKS.

ATTACHMENT #2

Original
Army Form C. 2118.

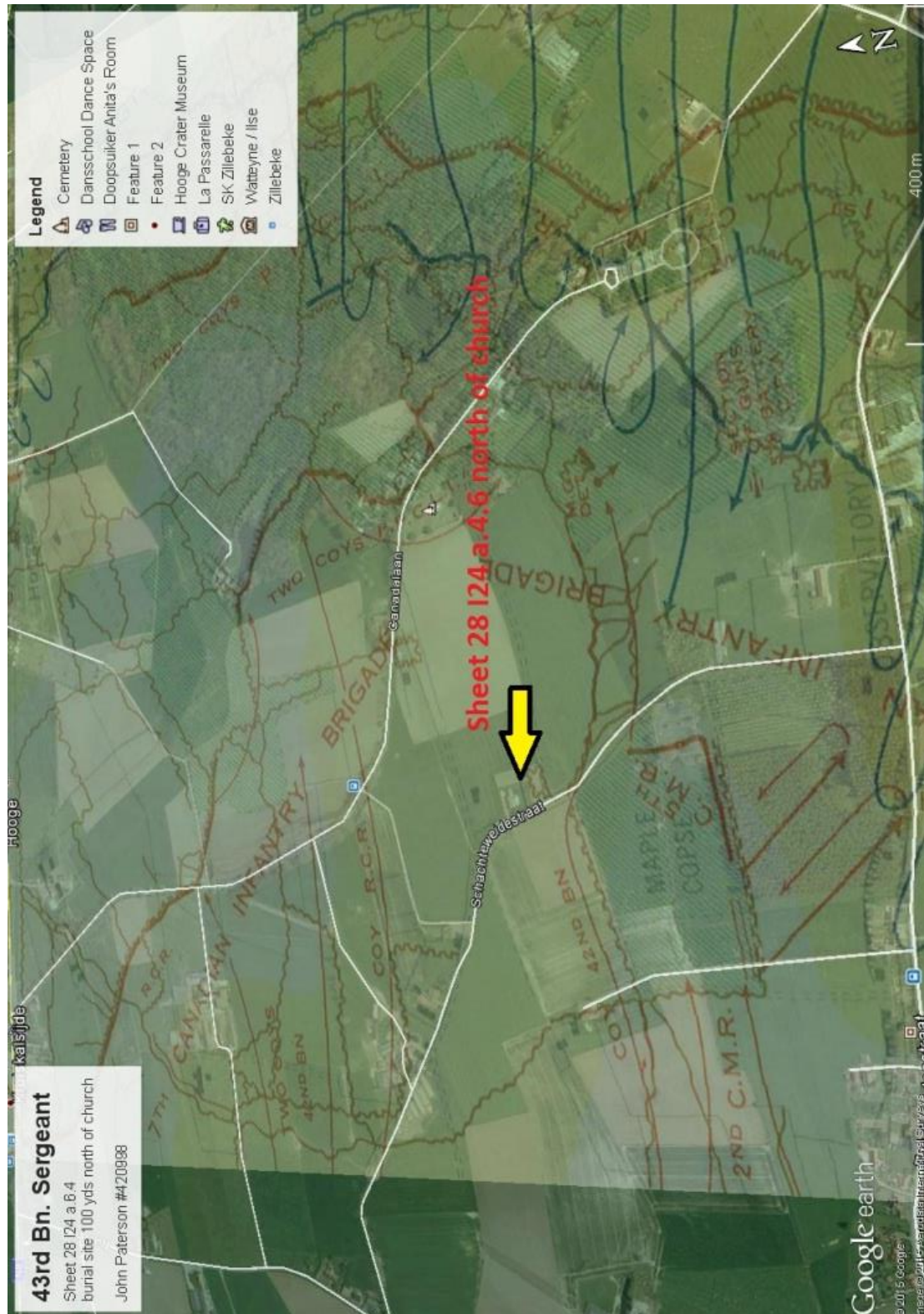
WAR DIARY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY July 1916.
(Erase heading not required.) 43rd. Canadian Battalion.
Cameron Highlanders of Canada.

C O P Y.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

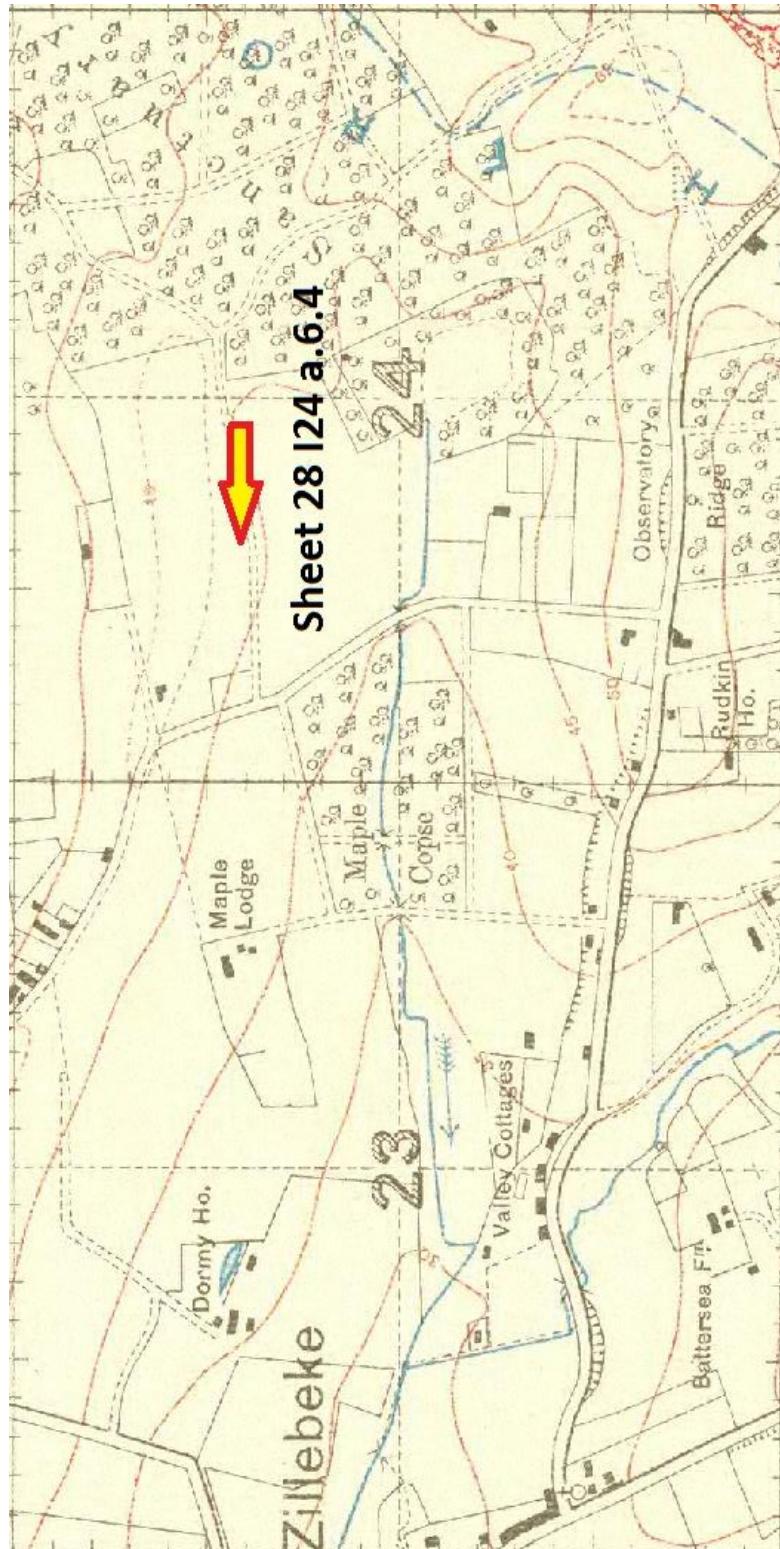
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
XPRES SALIBVT.	1-7-16.		43rd. Bn. relieved 49th Bn. in front line. Patrol sent out to reconnoitre and had only preceded short distance when 8 of the enemy were observed proceeding overland to bombing post. Enemy retreated into wood. Intermittent shelling of front line by enemy. Relief completed: Code used "We have sufficient shovels". Casualties 1 O.R. killed. Weather fine and warm. Wind S.W. moderate.	
do.	2-7-16	2.00 A.M.	4 Hostile machines crossed our line and proceeded west and dropped two signals, one white breaking into the white stream. Aircraft was active all day. Enemy artillery was active on SANCTUARY WOOD, GORDON HOUSE, BEMIN RLY., WARRINGTON AVE. and MAPLE COPSE. Casualties 1 O.R. killed and 1 Wounded. Weather fine and warm. Wind west strong.	
do.	3-7-16	6.50 A.M.	Operation orders received for relief of Bn. in front line by 58th Bn. Casualties 1 Lt. C.E. Otter Wounded. Weather fine and warm.	
do.	4-7-16		Bn. relieved in front line trenches by the 58th Bn. and move to ZILBEKE BUND, Rd. Support. The following articles were taken off the person of a dead German M.C.O.:— Pocket book, Roll book, Map and Gas Helmet in German paper bag. Weather dull with showers of rain on the afternoon.	
ZILBEKE BUND.	5-7-16		Bn. in dugouts at ZILBEKE BUND. Working parties consisting of 8 Officers and 465 Other Ranks. Casualties 2 O.R. Wounded.	
do.	6-7-16		Situation quiet. Bn. supplied working parties consisting of 8 Officers and 465 Other Ranks.	
do.	7-7-16		Bn. supplied working parties consisting of 8 Officers and 465 Other Ranks.	
do.	8-7-16.		Orders received for Bn. to move to front line trenches. Working parties of 8 Officers and 465 Other Ranks. Weather fine.	

2449 Wt. W. 4957/Mgo 750000 1/16 J.R.C. & A. Foms/C2118/2.

ATTACHMENT #3



ATTACHMENT #4



ATTACHMENT #5

4 record(s) match your search criteria

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
PATERSON, JOHN	Sergeant	420998	04/06/1916	39	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
WOOD, JOHN SUTHERLAND	Sergeant	420698	26/10/1917	28	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
DOWNIE, J H	Sergeant	622536	26/10/1917	24	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
GEOFFREY, L F	Sergeant	152848	26/10/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #6

23. COPY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

COMMUNE. ZILLEBEE REPORT NO. 1. SCHEDULE NO: 152c

PLACE OF BURIAL. RAILWAY DUGOUTS BURIAL GROUND (TRANSPORT FARM) *Rev*

Land belongs to 28.I.21.c.85.90.

The following are buried here:- PLOT 8, ROW "B" Contd.

Regiment.	No.	Name.	Rank and Initials.	Date of Death.	Cross Erected or despatched.	Plot Row & Grave.
7/R.B.	S/30683	DEATH	Rfn.H.A.	16.10.17.	E	25 C2
43/Cameron's of Canada		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SERGEANT			E	26 C2
M.G.C.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E	27 C2
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E	28 C2
		UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER			E	29 C2
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			E	30 C2

2104

ENTERED 5/3/26
CLIPS CHECKED 5/2/26

PRINTED IN FRANCE BY ARNET PRINTING AND STATIONERS SERVICES

ZILLERBERG 1-31E
6/25/36
1/39/33.E.
11/16/33

ALL CROSSES ERECTED. CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).
BURIAL RETURN.
20.10.24.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial RAILWAY DUGOUTS BURIAL GROUND (TRANSPORT FARM). 28.1.21.e.6.8.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded by Base?
8	B	24	28.J.14.a.80.10. ✓	No.	202. UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. 123/Royal Engineers.	Piece of Ground Sheet Mkd. 202. 123.R.E.	Piece of Ground Sheet Mkd. 202. 123.R.E.
8	B	25	28.J.13.d.70.85. ✓	No.	30683. UNKNOWN BRITISH RIFLEMAN. 75/R.B. 4/11/16.10.14	Clothing. Boots.	Piece of Boot Mkd. 1-0683.5.R.B.
8	B	26	28.I.24.a.6.4. ✓	No.	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SERGEANT. 43/Gamsons of Canada.	Badge of Rank. Titles.	No.
8	B	27	28.J.13.b.70.40. ✓	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. M.G.C.	Clothing. Titles.	No.
8	B	28	28.J.14.a.80.15. ✓	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Clothing.	No.
8	B	29	28.J.13.b.50.05. ✓	No.	UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER.	Clothing.	No.
8	B	30	28.D.26.b.5.6. ✓	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. Richard Stiles. Registration Officer. for Area Superintendent. No.1 Area, I.W.G.C.	Clothing.	No.

RECEIVED 13/11/24
CHECKED 13/11/24

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ATTACHMENT #8

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author
Tim McTague	Private Researcher, CEFSG	timmct@verizon.net	Reviewer
Chris Wight	Private Researcher, CEFSG	guardsmancgg@hotmail.com	Reviewer